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Query and Answer

All Queries and Answers should be addressed to Thomas E. Oliver, Urbana, Illinois.

QUERIES

9. *What "informational" books suited to class reading and dealing with the customs and manners of France, Germany, and Spanish countries are published by American firms?*

Much material of this kind has already been found. It will be listed in the near future. The difficulty in such listing is chiefly that of knowing just where to draw the line.

10. *Will the JOURNAL give a brief bibliography of Portugal and of the Portuguese language? The growing importance of Brazil internationally would seem to warrant more attention in this direction.*

12. a) *Where can a teacher find definitions and simple explanations of the terms used in text-books on phonetics?*

b) *Where are to be found the simplest and clearest drawings meant to represent the organs of speech in the production of speech sounds?*

c) *Is there any book on phonetics that does not assume at the outset that the reader understands some of the technical terms used?*

ANSWERS

7. *What information is to be had on: a) French actors or companies of actors playing in America in the French language? b) The influence of French drama on American drama?*

This is intended to be an answer to a query which appeared in the February issue of *The Modern Language Journal*: What information can be had on French actors or companies playing in America in the French language?

No doubt the inquirer considered the question from the educational point of view. I shall give the information from the same standpoint.

So far no company of French players has toured this country and represented masterpieces of French drama, but now, thanks

to the initiative taken by M. Carlo Liten, the Belgian tragedian, we may hope that a close collaboration between instructors and talented interpreters of French drama will soon be an accomplished fact. After a successful season at the *Théâtre d'Art* in New York, M. Carlo Liten offered his services to different institutions. We were able to secure them and we offered to our students, last February, three well selected French plays: *Polyphème* by Albert Samain, *Le Baiser* by Théodore de Banville, and *Le Caprice* by Alfred de Musset.

With its usual small appropriation it is certain that no French department could face the expenses of such a performance and the financial side of it becomes the most serious question. But from our own experience we are convinced that it is possible, even in a small town, to find a certain number of persons interested in French art and language who will pledge themselves to take a certain number of seats for the performance, thus securing from them the most important part of the expenses, a small charge collected from the students making up the difference. As for us, we applied to the local chapter of the Alliance Française and the interest of this society made the performance possible.

The plays were studied in our advanced classes, a synopsis being given to other classes when a complete study of the plays could not be made. Our students and those of the high school attended the performance; all enjoyed it and we feel that it aroused great interest for the study of French which now helps us to a great extent.

After the performance we had the pleasure of talking with M. Carlo Liten, the originator of these presentations, who told us of his plans for next year. In order to have his program fitted more adequately to our program of studies he will give carefully made selections from French drama; acts from *Andromaque*, *Le Cid*, *Britannicus* and the like will be offered to the French departments of American colleges and universities willing to engage his services.

As to the interpretation, nothing better can be desired for educational purposes than Mr. Carlo Liten's performances. His technique, entirely personal with him, is not governed by a worn out tradition nor does it show trace of dangerous innovations; M. Liten knows how to harmonize a strong interpretation with

the best dramatic art. His interpretation is all that an artist and a teacher can desire since it is based on a perfect understanding of the works of the poets. We must add that he is supported by an excellent company of French actors.

We know the deep impression French dramatic literature makes on our students, and we hope that our colleagues will not miss such a precious opportunity.

G. L. MALÉCOT.

*Washington and Jefferson College,
Washington, Pa.*

8. *Will some one list the best class-texts of French, German and Spanish history, the so-called "Historical Readers"?*

—Josselyn and Talbot, *Elementary Reader of French History*, Ginn. 73 pages. Maps. 48 cents. Copyright, 1909.

—*Lectures Historiques (1610–1815)*, edited by Emma Moffett, author of *Récits Historiques* (to 1610). Maps, portraits, chronological tables. xx+262. 60 cents. Heath.

—Fortier, Alcée, *Précis de l'Histoire de France avec des notes explicatives en anglais*. 191 pages. \$1. Macmillan.

—Super, O. B., *Readings from French History*. 324 pages. \$1. Allyn & Bacon. This book has been deservedly popular. It contains ten selections from leading French historians, each selection treating of a vital epoch in the history of France. No vocabulary.

—Taine, H. A., *L'Ancien Régime*, abridged and edited with Introduction, Notes, and Vocabulary by W. F. Giese. viii+327. Heath. 1906. 70 cents.

—Taine, H. A., *Les Origines de la France Contemporaine*. Edited by J. F. L. Raschen. Introduction, notes, and vocabulary. 272 pages. 60 cents. American Book Co. (1911.)

—Lamartine, *Scènes de la Révolution Française*, from "*Histoire des Girondins*," edited by O. B. Super. vi+193. With vocabulary. Heath. 45 cents.

—Michelet, *Histoire de France*, edited by D. L. Buffum. Introduction, notes, vocabulary. xiii+511. Holt, 1909. \$1.24.

—Michelet, *Extraits de l'Histoire de France*, edited by C. H. C. Wright. No vocabulary. vii+130 pages. 40 cents. Heath. 1901.

- Sicard, Ernest, *Easy French History*, edited for school use. 211 pages. Scott, Foresman & Co. (1901).
- Super, O. B., *Histoire de France*, based upon Ducoudray's *Récits d'Histoire de France*. 210 pages of text; no vocabulary. Holt, 1900. 96 cents.
- Napoléon*. Extracts from Henri Martin, Victor Duruy, *Mémorial de Sainte-Hélène*, Thiers, Chateaubriand, Edgar Quinet, Madame de Rémusat, with a narrative by the editor, Alcée Fortier. 136 pages. Ginn, 1898.
- Lavissee, Ernest, *Histoire de France; cours élémentaire*. vi+247 (196 of text). \$1. Heath, 1919. This little book seems to have filled a real want. It has proved popular in classes of beginners.
- Moireau, *La Guerre de l'Indépendance en Amérique*. 59 pages. 36 cents. Ginn, 1897. Since the French had so large a share in the achievement of American independence, this little book does a real service in thus connecting French and American history.
- The book by T. Pettigrew Young, entitled *L'Histoire de France en Thèmes* (Oxford University Press, 1913) is not, as its title might lead one to think, a history reader in French, but a sort of composition book. There are selections from English writers on French history for translation into French. Unfortunately there is no vocabulary to aid the student in what would be a very difficult task without some such help.
- The number of books dealing with some phase of the recent great war is on the increase. Among the best that have thus far appeared are *La France Héroïque*, edited by F. H. Osgood, D. C. Heath, 1919; *Carnet de Campagne d'un Officier Français*, by Lieutenant René Nicolas, edited by Edward Manley, Benj. H. Sanborn & Co., 1919; *Sous les Armes* with introduction, notes and vocabulary by Marcel Moraud, Henry Holt, 1918; *Scènes et Récits de la Grande Guerre (1914-1918)* with exercises, notes and vocabulary by Régis Michaud, Heath, 1920.
- In the above connection special mention should be made of an admirable reader dealing with Belgium and entitled *La Belgique Triomphante. Ses Luttes, ses Souffrances, sa Liberté*, by l'Abbé Joseph Larsimont, Assistant Director of the

Bureau Belge of New York. World Book Company, 1919. x+311 pages. This reader is largely historical in its material and is most attractively printed and illustrated. Surely we can no longer continue to forget the important rôle that Belgium has played in the development and defense of Gallic civilization.

In Spanish the supply of history readers is less large than in French. The following have come to our notice:

- Trozos de Historia*, edited by Forrest Eugene Spencer. ix+210 pages. Ginn, 1919. 80 cents. A wise selection of the leading events in the history of Spain and of South America. The book is illustrated and is well equipped with notes and vocabulary.
- Spanish Reader of South American History*, edited with notes, exercises, and vocabulary by Edward Watson Supple. xii+375 pages. Illustrated. \$1. Macmillan, 1917.
- Historia de Latin America*, by E. Santibañez. Illustrated. \$1.35. Appleton, 1919.
- Quintana, *Vasco Núñez de Balboa*, edited with introduction, notes, and vocabulary by George C. Brownell. 112 pages. 90 cents. Ginn. Copyright, 1914.

In German the number of historical readers is large:

- Schiller, *Gustav Adolf in Deutschland*, edited by Dr. William Bernhardt. 151 pages. Notes and vocabulary. 45 cents. American Book Co. This treats of the Swedish Period of the Thirty Years War.
- Another selection from Schiller's historical writings is published by Heath under the title: *Geschichte des dreissigjaehrigen Krieges*. This is the third book of the famous history. It is edited with notes by C. W. Prettyman. xv+170 pages. 40 cents. Holt also has two editions of this classic, both edited by A. H. Palmer. One sells for 50 cents and the other for 80 cents.
- Ranke, *Kaiserwahl Karls V*, edited by Hermann Schoenfeld. 94 pages. Introduction and notes. 35 cents. American Book Co.

- Freytag, Gustav, *Karl der Grosse, Aus dem Klosterleben im zehnten Jahrhundert*. Two essays from Freytag's *Bilder aus der deutschen Vergangenheit*. Edited by A. B. Nichols, with vocabulary by E. H. P. Grossman. xix+209 pages. 80 cents. Holt, 1911. Another edition without the vocabulary has a third essay, *Aus den Kreuzzügen*. xix+200 pages. Holt, 1893. 80 cents.
- Becker, *Friedrich der Grosse*, with an historical sketch of the rise of Prussia and of the times of Frederick the Great, edited by Dr. C. A. Buchheim. xxxii+176 pages of which 112 are text. Fourth edition. Oxford University Press.
- Freytag, Gustav, *Aus dem Staat Friedrichs des Grossen*. Based on the edition by Herman Hager, vi+109. 35 cents. Heath.
- Freytag, Gustav, *Aus dem Jahrhundert des grossen Krieges*. Deals with the life and times of the Thirty Years War. Edited by L. A. Rhoades. x+158 pages. 40 cents. Heath.
- Von Sybel, *Die Erhebung Europas gegen Napoleon I*, edited by A. B. Nichols. 126 pages. 60 cents. Ginn.
- Luther, Martin, *Auswahl aus deutschen Schriften*, edited by W. H. Carruth. lxxxii+362 pages. \$1.12. Ginn.
- Freytag, Gustav, *Doktor Luther*, edited with introduction and notes by Frank P. Goodrich. xv+177 pages. 72 cents. Ginn.
- German Historical Prose*, selected and edited with notes by Hermann Schoenfeld. 213 pages. 80 cents. Holt, 1895.
- Erzählungen aus der deutschen Geschichte*. Für Schule und Haus. Nach den besten Quellen bearbeitet und zusammengestellt von Joseph Schrakamp. With tables and English notes. viii+286 pages. 90 cents. Holt, 1888.
- Biedermann, Karl, *Deutsche Bildungszustände im 18. Jahrhundert*, edited by John A. Walz. xix+205 pages. 75 cents. Holt, 1904.
- Of an autobiographical nature with interesting historical background are Goethe's *Dichtung und Wahrheit*, published in abbreviated editions by Holt, the Oxford University Press, Heath, and others. Of similar historical interest is *Mein Leben* by Seume (1763–1810), edited by J. Henry Senger and published by Ginn (136 pages; 60 cents).

11. Will someone suggest a working library for use in connection with the proposed exchange of letters between French and American secondary school pupils under the George Peabody Foundation for International Educational Correspondence? Also a like apparatus for correspondence between American and Spanish-speaking pupils?

As far as we know, there is no adequate composition manual for either French or Spanish based primarily upon the idea of cultivating an epistolary style. Most French manuals take us to Paris, or to France as a whole, on an imaginary journey; most Spanish manuals are commercial in character. There is surely room for manuals of letter writing that would avoid the stiltedness of too great an effort at "style," and yet not deal with dull commonplaces.

Such a book could give in an attractive way the information about the foreign country which is found in the average "journey" composition book. We are pleased to note in a recent publication by Heath, *Scènes et Récits de la Grande Guerre (1914-1918)* that the editor, Régis Michaud, has used the epistolary method of presenting his material. The result is highly satisfactory and interesting. The letters are sprightly and have every appearance of actuality. Such should be the qualities of the epistolary composition manual that we trust will soon appear.

There are, to be sure, in many composition books a certain number of pages of an epistolary character. Perhaps the most complete in this respect is the *Selections for French Composition* by C. H. Grandgent (Heath) where Part V (pp. 53-68), is devoted to "Letters." Similarly the valuable *Vade Mecum du Professeur de Français* by G. N. Tricoche (published by the author at Park Place, Morristown, N. J.), pp. 45-66, gives many essential details for correct letter writing. On the Spanish side, the *Manual de Correspondencia* by Fuentes and Elías (Macmillan, 1918) devotes pp. 7-32 to *Cartas Particulares* and pp. 101-110 to exercises based thereon.

The ideal epistolary composition manual that we have in mind would make large use of idiomatic and colloquial expressions. There should be in the reference library of the school that uses a book of this character as large a collection of books containing

idiomatic expressions as possible. We suggest the following list as a nucleus:

- Blanchard, *Progressive French Idioms*, Heath, 1910. 65 cents.
- Méras, *French Verbs and Verbal Idioms in Speech*, Sturgis & Walton Co. 1909.
- Hennequin, *Practical Lessons in Idiomatic French*, American Book Co. (1881).
- Chardenal, *French Exercises for Advanced Pupils*, Cambridge Charles W. Sever); Boston (John Allyn), 1879. While this book is quite ancient in method and exercises, it still has great value in the large *Index to Idiomatical Verbs* that occupies pages 187–320. This is a veritable mine of colloquial speech.
- Billaudeau, A. G., *Collection of French Idioms, Sayings, and Proverbs with their English Equivalents and Meanings*, New York (G. E. Stechert), \$2.50.
- Marchand, *Four Thousand French Idioms and Proverbs*, New York (Brentano).
- Plan, Ph. and Roget, F. F., *Selections of French Idioms*. Published in London. Imported by Macmillan. Latest reprint 1909. 243 pages. \$1. The idioms are explained by synonymous French phrases and not by the equivalent English idioms.
- Becker and Mora, *Spanish Idioms with their English Equivalents, embracing ten thousand phrases*. Boston (Ginn & Co.), 1887. \$2.25.

The above is only a suggestion for material. We trust that our correspondents may interest themselves further in the problems involved, so that a still fuller answer to the query may be forthcoming.